



CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO

CITY HALL

1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

City Council

City Manager's Office City Clerk

Early Learning Services
Information Technology
(916) 617-4500
Economic Development
(916) 617-4535

Community Development

Planning/Dev Engineering
(916) 617-4645
Housing & Community
Investment
(916) 617-4555
Building
(916) 617-4683
Code Enforcement
(916) 617-4925

Public Works

Administration
Transportation
Engineering
Flood Protection
(916) 617-4850
Environmental Services
(916) 617-4590
Utility Billing
(916) 617-4589

Administrative Services

Finance
(916) 617-4575
Human Resources
(916) 617-4567

Parks & Recreation

Administration
(916) 617-4620
Recreation Center
2801 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4770
Community Center
1075 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-5320

FIRE

2040 Lake Washington Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4600
Fax (916) 371-5017

POLICE

550 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 617-4900

PUBLIC WORKS

Operations
1951 South River Road
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 617-4850

September 17, 2013

Transmitted by Email (Beth.Spivey@mail.house.gov)

Congressman Bill Shuster
Chairman, House Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of
Representatives
2209 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Nick Rahall II
Ranking Member, House
Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure
United States House of
Representatives
2307 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the City of West Sacramento, a city charged with minimizing flood risks for nearly 100,000 citizens and workers, over 1,900 businesses and hundreds of billions of dollars of private, state and federal investments in the City, we write today to applaud the bipartisan efforts of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in crafting the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2013 (H.R. 3080). This important step is vitally important to public safety and local fiscal issues and we strongly support passage by the Committee.

As drafted, WRRDA includes many measures that will help the City of West Sacramento carry forth our mission of delivering projects to reduce flood risks in a responsible and expeditious manner while simultaneously making the Federal role in flood damage reduction more efficient. In particular, we very much appreciate the Committee's efforts:

- To reduce study time for Army Corps of Engineers projects by eliminating the reconnaissance phase,
- To allow locals to step forward to advance projects that would be otherwise identified for deauthorization,
- To set up an annual process for project authorizations and project modifications to move forward,
- To promote a common sense approach to vegetation on levees, and
- To streamline the environmental permitting process for these vitally needed flood risk reduction projects.

This common sense approach to project delivery is refreshing and reflects the urgent need for greater flood protection in communities such as West Sacramento.

We are also pleased that the Committee has elected to take on reform of issues such as Corps approval of locally-driven improvements to Federally authorized levees (WRRDA section 106) and Corps crediting for work performed by non-Federal interests in advance of Corps construction (WRRDA section 113). Both of these issues are vital for advancing flood risk reduction in this country and leveraging the willingness of non-Federal interests to invest in these projects. We are, however, concerned that the bills' treatment of crediting in section 113 and of local project permitting in section 106 falls short of the reforms necessary to address the current challenges facing local communities. We are also concerned that section 107 of the bill, in amending Section 211 of 1996 WRDA, may inadvertently de-authorize projects which have already been constructed. As WRRDA makes its way through the committee process we would appreciate your willingness to further address our concerns.

Thank you for your leadership in making WRRDA a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cabaldon', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Christopher L. Cabaldon
Mayor

